

Page 9, between lines 7 and 8, insert:

--Brief description of the drawings

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*A* Figs. 1a and 1b are schematic diagrams of wettable and non-wettable materials.--

between lines 12 and 13, insert:

--Description of the preferred embodiments--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter into the application the amended claims as set forth hereinbelow and in the attached Appendix:

Page 12, above line 1: WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*A2* 4. (Amended) Device according to claim 2, characterised in that the orifices are located at the top of tapered protuberances.

5. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the spreading ratio is obtained by mechanically or geometrically limiting the said contact area.

*A3* 7. (Amended) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that when the material used for the static part (21) is non wettable, each protuberance (32) comprises only one gas emission orifice (22).

8. (Amended) Device according to claim 6, characterised in that at least one of the protuberances (32) is removable.

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9. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises means such that the gas pressure at the outlet orifice is approximately constant, regardless of the gas flow.

11. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that a shearing energy is added to the liquid metal (3, 23) preferably by means of ultra sounds or a rotary stirrer.

12. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the orifices (2, 22) are separated from each other by a distance such that the bubbles do not come into contact while they are being formed.

13. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the static injection part (1, 21) is made of one or several elements assembled together.

15. (Amended) Process for the treatment of a liquid metal (3, 23) by injection of a gas, making use of the static gas injection device according to claim 1.

16. (Amended) Treatment process according to claim 14, characterised in that the bubble size (11, 31) is measured using a method consisting of irradiating the liquid metal bath (3, 23) into which the bubbles are emitted using X-rays, displaying the said bubbles after the image has been retrieved by a camera, and measuring them after calibration of the acquisition system.

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